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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Bulgarian Air Order of Battle

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The following chart shows the total number of aircraft in the Bulgarian Air Force, by type and whether jet (J) or piston (P) engine:

Pursuit		Fighter		Bomber		Transport		Reconnaissance		Total	
J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P
130-140	20-30	0	80-90	0	50-60	0	10-20	0	15-20	130-140	175-220

2. As of the end of 1953, the strength of the Bulgarian Air Force was estimated at 10,000 men of which approximately 500-600 are pilots.
3. The Bulgarian Air Force includes the following training schools:
- a. Pilot Schools:
- (1) Primary: Kazanluk, and Pleven;
 - (2) Advanced: Telish; and
 - (3) Fighter: Karlovo;
- b. Bombardier Schools:
- (1) Lovech;
- c. Mechanics Schools:
- (1) Lovech;

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STATE		ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR Ev.	X	FBI		AEC						
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d. Radio and Broadcasting:

(1) Sofia;

e. Civil aviation and Military Academy:

(1) Vrazhdebna.

The output of these schools is extremely small because of the lack of instructors and the paucity of means. Furthermore, a very strict grading of students has been enforced. It is estimated that a maximum of 100-120 students are trained annually in all the Air Force schools.

4. The Bulgarian Air Force order of battle is shown in the following chart:

<u>DIVISIONS</u>	<u>REGIMENTS</u>	<u>TYPES OF AIRCRAFT</u>
<u>Pursuit</u>		
1 Pursuit Division (Dobrich)	22 Pursuit Regt.; Dobrich	YAK-11, 15, 17, 23
	25 Pursuit Regt.; Dobrich	YAK-11, 15, 17, 23
	27 Pursuit Regt.; Bezmer	YAK-11, 15, 17, 23
4 Pursuit Division (Dobroslavtsi)	14 Pursuit Regt.; Karlovo	YAK-9
	11 Pursuit Regt.; Gabrovnitsa	YAK-9
	18 Pursuit Regt.; Dobroslavtsi	YAK-9
10 Pursuit Division (Graf Ignatiev)	15 Pursuit Regt.; Bezmer	MIG-15
	21 Pursuit Regt.; Graf Ignatiev	YAK-15, 17, 23
<u>Fighters</u>		
5 Fighter Division (Plovdiv)	17 Fighter Regt.; Krumovo	IL-10
	20 Fighter Regt.; Krumovo	IL-10
	23 Fighter Regt.; Plovdiv	PE-2
	Reserve Fighter Regt.; Plovdiv	PE-2
<u>Bombers</u>		
3 Bomber Division (Balchik)	4 Bomber Regt.; Balchik	TU-2
	1 Bomber Regt.; Sokolov	TU-2
2 Light Night Bomber Division (Yambol or Stara Zagora)		PE-2
9 Light Night Bomber Division (Stara Zagora or Yambol)	35 Regt.; Stara Zagora	PE-2
	34 Regt.; Stara Zagora	PE-2
<u>Reconnaissance</u>		
	26 Reconnaissance Regt.; Gorna Oryakhovitsa	
	8 Reconnaissance Regt.; Varna, now Stalin	AR-78
<u>Transport</u>		
	16 Transport Regt.; Sofia/Vrazhdebna	

The Bulgarian air units are, on an average, at 50 percent of full strength both with regard to personnel and materiel.

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5. The following six airfields are equipped with runways which are 2,000 or more meters in length:
- a. Dobrich; runway 2,800 meters long;
 - b. Bezmer; runway 2,500 meters long;
 - c. Chairl G'ol; runway 2,000 meters long;¹
 - d. Graf Ignatiev; runway 2,000 meters long;
 - e. Kumaritsa; runway 2,000 meters long; and
 - f. Gabrovnitsa; runway 2,000 meters long.
6. New airfields equipped with concrete runways are either completed (Gabrovnitsa, Ravnets), or are under construction (Kamenets, Nevrokop). A report of fair reliability informed of the recent fitting out of an import airfield for heavy aircraft at Lyubenets (N 42-22, E 25-57), 27 kilometers east-southeast of Stara Zagora.

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1. Comment: Probably a reference to Balchik airfield (N 43-26, E 28-11).

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